

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are pending. Claims 4 and 19-23 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include substantially all of the elements of claim 4. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the based claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include substantially all of the elements of claim 4. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-3 and 5-7 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-18 are allowed.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawin (US. 6,287,894) in view of Funada (US. 6,078,229). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, to further this application toward allowance, Applicants have amended claim 1 such that it is in allowable form as indicated in the Office Action. Dependent claims 2-7 and 5-7 add additional features to claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicants submit that pending claims 1-3 and 5-7 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are, therefore, respectfully requested.

All outstanding objections and rejections are believed to have been met and overcome. If a telephonic conference with Applicants' undersigned representative would be useful in advancing the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (651) 575-3644. A notice of allowance for all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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